

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

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TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REPORT

PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION

1. GENERAL REACTION TO RECENTLY-SIGNED DISENGAGEMENT
OF FORCES AGREEMENT HAS BEEN MIXED.

2. LARGE SEGMENT OF EGYPTIAN PUBLIC EXPERIENCED SENSE OF RELIEF
AND SATISFACTION. SOME ARE HAPPY BECAUSE IT MEANS
LOVED ONES WHO ARE SOLDIERS WILL COME BACK FROM FRONT.

3. BUT MANY STILL SKEPTICAL AND RESERVED ABOUT DISENGAGE-
MENT AGREEMENT. AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF HOSTILITY, A
FRESHLY-SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL CARRIES LITTLE WEIGHT.
MANY STILL DO NOT BELIEVE ISRAEL IS SINCERE AND PREFER
TO WITHHOLD JUDGMENT ON AGREEMENT UNTIL THEY SEE
ISRAEL ACTUALLY WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK OF SUEZ.

4. SOME EGYPTIANS ARE DISSATISFIED. THEY
GIVE CREDENCE TO RUMORS OF SECRET EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS.
THEY ARE AGAINST REDUCTION OF EGYPTIAN FORCES AND
REMOVAL OF MISSILES FROM SINAI. THEY NOTE CRITICAL

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REACTION TO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT FROM OTHER ARAB

COUNTRIES AND ARE CONCERNED THAT EGYPT, THUS FAR GOING IT ALONE, MIGHT BE ISOLATED IN ARAB WORLD.

5. OPINION TOWARD US HAS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DYNAMIC SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY AND THE FINAL AGREEMENT HAVE CONVINCED MANY THAT US IS SERIOUS ABOUT ME PEACE. AGREEMENT INDICATES TO MANY THAT US CAN BE TRUSTED AS MEDIATOR. SECRETARY IS HIGHLY POPULAR. PEOPLE BELIEVE KISSINGER/SADAT RELATIONSHIP IS VERY GOOD, ALTHOUGH ONLY ONE PAPER MENTIONED SADAT'S SAYING KISSINGER WAS "LIKE A BROTHER" AT THEIR FINAL JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE IN ASWAN. CURRENT JOKE CIRCULATING IS THAT SADAT OFFERED SECRETARY KISSINGER HAFEZ ISMAIL'S JOB. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFECTIVENESS IN MEDIATOR'S ROLE INSPIRED AL-AKHBAR COLUMNIST TO PORTRAY HIM AS GOOD JINN FROM ARABIAN NIGHTS. OTHER JOURNALISTS HAVE SAID THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IS WELL DESERVED.

6. MASS MEDIA COVERAGE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT NIXON'S ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE. IN ADDITION TO TEN DAYS OF FRONT-PAGE PHOTOS, NEWS STORIES AND COMMENTARY, KISSINGER/SADAT WERE FEATURED ON COVER WEEKLY PICTORIAL AL MUSSAWAR, WHICH ALSO CARRIED FOUR-PAGE STORY ON HIS ASWAN MISSION. AKHER SAA, ANOTHER WEEKLY PICTORIAL, PLACED KISSINGER/SADAT PHOTO ON FIRST PAGE AFTER COVER.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

7. ON TV, "ESCAPE TO MONTANA'S GLACIER PARK" WAS USED ON "YOU AND THE WORLD" WEEKLY PROGRAM. "VISION USA" AND "SCIENCE REPORTS" HAVE BECOME SUCH A FOUNDATION STONE IN TV PROGRAMS THAT PRODUCERS-DIRECTORS PHONE USIS CAIRO WHEN THEY THINK THEY ARE OVERDUE IN RECEIVING LATEST ISSUE.

8. ROTARY CLUB MEETING USED TWO SKYLAB FILMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH LECTURE ON SUBJECT.
EILTS

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